and since when they are awaiting clearance; and

(b) what are the reasons for the delay and by when they are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected.

Support price of cotton

2120. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has requested the Central Government to enhance the support price of cotton; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's response thereto and action so far taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra has requested for fixation of the guaranteed prices under the Cotton Monopoly procurement Scheme at Rs. 100 per quintal over the minimum support prices fixed by the Government of India for different varieties of cotton. As per information received from the Government of Maharashtra, advance bonus in addition to guaranteed prices is already being paid to the cotton growers as per provisions of the Maharashtra Raw Cotton (Procurement, Processing and Marketing) Act, 1971.

Import of duty free cotton by textile mills

2121. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have allowed textile mills to import duty free cotton;

(b) if so, what are the names of the textile mills, the quality of cotton imported by such mills and the loss of Government revenue due to duty-free import;

(c) what is the average price of imported cotton; and

(d) what are the reasons for permitting such import when an abundant indigenous supply is available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (d) Do not airse.

Exemption of excise duty on corrugated boxes used for mangoes

2122. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Members of Parliament have written to the Central Government to exempt excise duty on corrugated boxes used for packing mangoes in Konkan area of Maharashtra as is done in the case of such packings for apples; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The suggestion made by the Members of Parliament in this regard was examined by the Ministry. Having regard to revenue and other revelvant considerations, it was not found feasible to accept the suggestion.

Deployment of Armed Forces in States

2123. DR. R. K. PODDAR:
SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government can deploy Armed Forces in any State without the concurrence of the State Government concerned; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?